Message Text

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FOL RPT TOKYO 14870 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA SEOUL AUG 17. 1978

QUOTE: CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 14870

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: MARR, KS, AS

SUBJECT: UN COMMAND REAR

1. IN COURSE OF CALL ON AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR MENADUE, ARRANGED AT LATTER'S REQUEST, AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN UN COMMAND REAR, NOTING THAT BRITISH OFFICER ASSIGNED TO UNCR HAD DEPARTED LAST MONTH. WHILE WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT THIRD-COUNTRY PRESENCE HAD BEEN MAINTAINED BY UNEXPECTED ASSIGNMENT OF PHILIPPINE OFFICER, AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD OBSERVED THAT MORE REGULARIZED AND PREDICTABLE SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING THIRD-COUNTRY PRESENCE SEEMED ADVISABLE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ASSIGN OFFICER WHO IN FACT SPENT TIME IN LANGUAGE TRAINING AT FSI SCHOOL IN YOKOHAMA. OFFICER'S UNCR DESIGNATION WOULD NOT IMPINGE HEAVILY UPON HIS STUDIES, AND JAPANESE WOULD NOT QUESTION ARRANGEMENT. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT EVENTUALLY SOME SORT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 211348

OF COMMONWEALTH ROTATION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, WITH CANADIAN AND PERHAPS UK AND NEW ZEALAND PARTICIPATION.

2. AMBASSADOR MENADUE SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH PROBLEM, RECALLING DISCUSSIONS LAST SPRING IN ANTICIPATION OF BRITISH OFFICER'S DEPARTURE. HE OBSERVED THAT NONCOMMITAL GOA ATTITUDE REFLECTED DIVERGENCE OF OPINION WITHIN

GOVERNMENT, WITH DEFENSE RECOGNIZING BENEFITS OF PRESERVING UN SOFA AND RECOMMENDING PARTICIPATION, WHILE MOFA WAS WARY OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS UPON RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. MENADUE SAID HIS EMBASSY FAVORED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION AND HAD SO RECOMMENDED. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT CANBERRA HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION LAST TIME AROUND THAT U.S. "WAS NOT PUSHING VERY HARD," AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO GOA INDECISION. MENADUE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY OUR MESSAGE TO CANBERRA, BUT THOUGHT CHANCES OF FAVORABLE ACTION WOULD BE MUCH ENHANCED IF THERE WERE DIRECT USG APPROACH TO GOA IN CANBERRA. MANSFIELD UNQUOTE VANCE

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